

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee was held on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Erickson, Duane Pierce, Delores Pierce, Ed Koslowski, Joan Brusky, Jerry Polus
EXCUSED: Louise Dahlke, Jim Haskins

****Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1804**

1. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 4:30 pm.

2. Invocation. None.

3. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Delores Pierce to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. Approve/Modify Minutes of May 16, 2017.

Motion made by Ed Koslowski, seconded by Joan Brusky to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. Update re: Honor Rewards Program.

CVSO Jerry Polus reported that 225 cards have been sent out to veterans for the program and there are currently 83 businesses participating. A representative of the Register of Deeds office will be at the Fair to register veterans.

6. Update re: 2017 Veterans' Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.
a. Set Timeline.

Polus informed he has received a regret letter from the Navy Band indicating they are unable to perform at the Fair because of a scheduling conflict. He has contacted the Air Force Band to check their availability, but feels we need to have someone else lined up. Koslowski said he will talk to the contact person of Monterey Trail, the band that has performed the last couple of years, to check their availability.

Polus continued that he has commitments for tables in the tent from the following groups: Veterans Center, Federal VA, VA Clinic, Center for Veterans Issues, Ken Corry, The Volunteer Center, Register of Deeds for Honor Rewards, State VA and the Veterans Home in King plus a table for his office. At least three tables will be needed for the door prizes. Erickson said he will be working on getting door prize donations and Joan Brusky also offered to work on getting some prizes donated. Duane Pierce and Jim Haskins will handle the door prize drawings again this year at the event.

Polus ran through the agenda and made a few notes. The tent will be open from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. The band will play from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm and then again for an hour following the ceremony. The ceremony will be begin at 3:00 pm with a welcome by Bernie Erickson. Posting of colors will be done by DAV followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain George Dexter will be doing the prayer which will be followed by the National Anthem and Polus will confirm with Jim Haskins that he has a person to do this. County Executive Troy Streckenbach will then speak for a short time followed by the laying of the wreath. Echo Taps will follow the wreath laying. Polus is working on getting a speaker for the event who will talk about the history of the Purple Heart and also someone from the DAV. The recognition certificates and give away item will then be presented and will be followed by the retirement of the colors and door prize drawings.

Erickson said the giveaway item will be dog tags again this year. He will see if he can get a flag design on the dog tags and let the group know. It was also decided to go with keyrings rather than chains. Erickson will order 200 items. The inscription on the dog tags was discussed and "Purple Heart & Disabled Vet, 2017, Thank You For Your Service" was decided upon. The County Board office will prepare the certificates and proclamation for the event.

Polus will have the posters done soon to be mailed out. He is waiting to hear about the band and as soon as it is confirmed he will include the photo on the poster and have them printed. Tickets will be handed out in July. There was a brief discussion regarding electronic tickets as was discussed in the past, but it was decided that this group would continue to use the paper tickets as has been done in the past.

7. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.

Polus said he and the Senior Benefits Specialist from his office attended a national federal VA training conference last week in San Diego. It was an excellent week and there were people from Washington there presenting information. The VA is changing rapidly and the conference was very important and informative in terms of keeping him and his staff updated.

8. Update re: Fishing Outing for PTSD Veterans held on June 6, 2017.

Erickson reported on the fishing event held by his fishing group, Green Bay Area Great Lakes Sports Fisherman, at the lake they adopted at the Botanical Gardens. The event was held on June 6 and was attended by 12 – 15 veterans who are part of the Project Healing Waters group. The group had a good time and caught some fish, even though recent hot weather brought on a bunch of weeds. Erickson said they will be holding another similar event in September.

9. Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Brusky, Dahlke, Haskins, Koslowski, Pierce & Witkowski, Brusky).

-Erickson informed that he received a call recently from Jim Haskins. Haskins said he has a new job and is working from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm daily and will not be able to attend these Subcommittee meetings at this time. He did advise Erickson that he would be at the Fair and he also indicated that the hours for his job may change in the future which would allow him to come to the meetings. In the meantime, Haskins would like to remain on the mailing list so he can stay updated.

-Brusky did not have anything to report.

-Koslowski said the Amvets State Convention will kick off on Thursday at the Oneida Casino. He invited the group to stop by the plaza towers hospitality room if they would be at the convention. Koslowski also said the Veterans Manor is looking for a POW/MIA flag and asked Polus if there is any source that donates flags or offered them at a discount. Polus said he will look into this and let Koslowski know and Pierce indicated that he will also talk to Rolling Thunder about this.

-Pierce reported that the Pearly Gates ride will be held on July 8 and this year's event will honor Korean Veterans. There will be a ceremony at 11:15 am followed by the ride. There will also be a number of WWII vets bussed in for the event. Pierce also noted that the Blue Angels are coming to Wisconsin. They will be in Milwaukee on July 15 & 16 and then on the 29th & 30th at the EAA.

10. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law. None.

11. Adjourn.

Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Joan Brusky to adjourn at 5:10 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary